proposed to expand defence cooperation along the lines which have already been established in working together with the United States of America on certain defence related technologies like the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Project. It is also proposed to explore and identify other areas of defence cooperation.

(c) and (d) It is believed that Pakistan is buying defnce stores from US on a large scale. It is, however, not necessary that India should purchase the same stores which Pakistan is. Defence items are procured on consideration of requirement, quality and availability. It will not be in the national interest to divulge further information on the details of arms procurement in the process of modernisation.

U.S. Assistance to Pakistan

616 SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government has sanctioned a fresh assistance of 40 m to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the nature of the assistance being given to Pakistan by U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under an economic and security assistance package valued at $3.2 billion for the fiscal years 1982—87, Pakistan has received assistance from the USA, including military supplies and develpomental aid. The congress is now considering an economic and security assistance package to Pakistan of Dollars 4.02 billion for the fiscal years 1988 to 1993.

Super Powers negotiations on Nuclear Missiles Ban

617. SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations have recently been made between the super powers on nuclear-missile ban; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) An "Agreement in principle" to conclude a treaty on the question of intermediate range and shorter range missiles was announced in Washington on Sept. 18, 1987. This question has been under negotiation between the two sides as a part of the bilateral US-USSR arms limitation talks being held in Geneva since March 1985. The proposed INF Treaty provides for the elimination of all landbased intermediate range (1000—5500 kms.) and shorter range (500—1000 kms.) nuclear missiles deployed by the two sides anywhere on the globe.

Purchase of F-7 Xian Fighter from China by Pakistan

618. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is to buy about 400 F-7 Xian fighter aircraft from China; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have seen such reports.

(b) Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on the country's security and take appropriate counter-measures.